



# Crime Lab News

Volume II, Issue I

Spring 2017

## A Note from Our Director

Sexual violence is a very serious public health problem that affects millions of women and men around the nation. In 2016, according to the Arkansas Crime Information Center, there were 2,666 acts of sexual violence reported to Arkansas law enforcement.

In order to assess the status of sexual assault kits collected in Arkansas, Act 1168 of 2015 was enacted by Arkansas's 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Act 1168 is a legislative mandate for all health care providers and law enforcement agencies across the state to conduct a yearly inventory of sexual assault kits that have been collected, but not submitted to the laboratory for testing.

In order to assist with the inventory and tracking of sexual assault kits, the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory will be implementing a free sexual assault kit tracking program accessible to all health care providers and law enforcement agencies. The use of this tracking software will create a more efficient and effective means of tracking sexual assault kits throughout the state of Arkansas.

The staff at Arkansas State Crime Laboratory will be providing training for this tracking program in the very near future. If your agency would like to learn more about this program please contact me at (501) 227-5952.

## Take Advantage of ASCL Training Opportunities

### ASCL Law Enforcement Training—March 29, June 28, Sept. 27, Dec. 13, 8:00-12:00

Over the last 2 years, the ASCL has been offering training opportunities for Law Enforcement Agencies and Court Officials. This training is led by the Section Chiefs for each of the forensic disciplines. This training will take you through a few case scenarios to emphasize our current capabilities, best samples for testing, how to package evidence, and understanding the results. There is also time for questions and a tour of the facility after the training. All trainings will be held at the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory in Little Rock. Seats are limited to 35 for each session. Please go to our website ([www.crimelab.arkansas.gov](http://www.crimelab.arkansas.gov)) to register for this training.

### 2018 Law Enforcement Training

March 29  
June 28  
September 27  
December 13

### CODIS Collection Training—Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 – 12:00, ASCL

This training is open for any agency that collects DNA Database offender and arrestee samples. The training will cover instructions on the kit collection process as well as information on our Remote Collection website. This new process allows collection sites to verify if a sample is needed from an individual which will help reduce duplicate and non-qualifying submissions. Please call 501-227-5747 and ask for the CODIS section to register.

## Inside this issue

Section Focus 2

Current Turn-Around-Times 2

Case Submissions 2

Case Management 3  
Guidelines

Case Coordinators 3

Staffing Updates 3

Drug Trends 4

2018 ASCL Goals 4

## Section Focus—Latent Prints

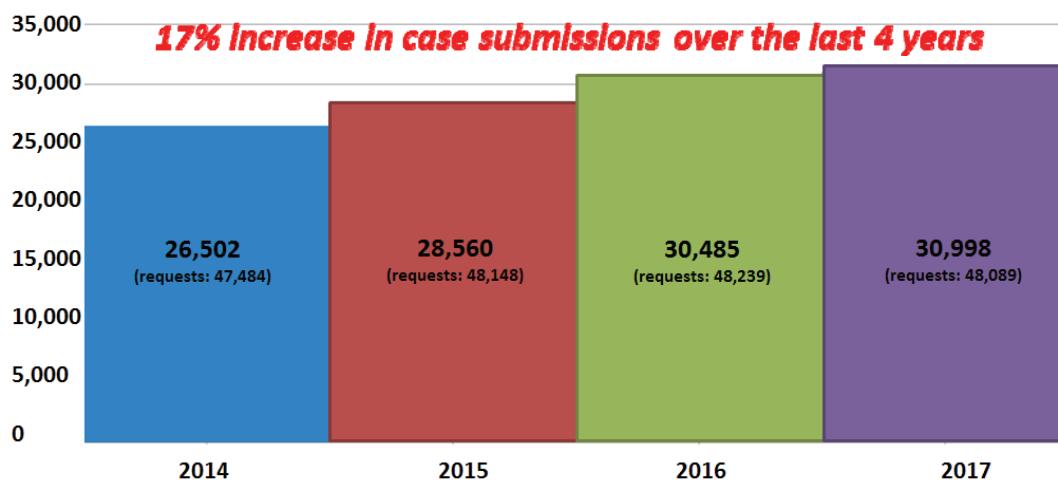
The Mission of the Latent Print section is to develop latent fingerprints using a full range of physical, chemical and alternative light source methods. Any developed latent fingerprint is then compared to prints of subjects in order to identify or eliminate them as originating from that individual. The Latent Print section also compares footwear and tire impressions to suspect footwear and tires. This section utilizes the computer based Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for searching, matching, and storing fingerprints and related data. The section has a supervisor, three Latent Print Examiners, and one Latent Print Examiner in training.

In addition to the Arkansas database, the section has the ability to search latent prints through the FBI Federal Database: *Next Generation Identification (NGI)*. If a positive association is not generated from the Arkansas database, all sufficient latent prints recovered from violent crimes will be entered into the NGI system. These unidentified latent prints will be retained automatically in the system for future searches. Recently, the FBI provided an upgrade to our program which will allow searches to be conducted in a more expedient manner. If you have any questions regarding Latent Prints, please contact the Latent Print Section Chief, Jaymie Hartwick, at (501) 683-6159.

## Current Turn Around Times

- **Digital Evidence**
  - Computers: 55 days
  - Mobile devices: 33 days
- **Firearms**
  - Comparisons: 9 months
  - (Homicides): 90 days
  - NIBIN: 30 days
- **Latent Prints**
  - Homicides: 45 days
  - 30 days
- **Drug Analysis** 6 months
- **Toxicology** 30 days
- **Physical Evidence—Trace**
  - Arson: 60 days
  - All other: 6 months
- **Physical Evidence—Serology**
  - Homicide: 30 days
  - Sexual Assault: 30 days
  - Property/other: 6 months
- **DNA**
  - Homicide: 60 days
  - Sexual Assault: 10 months
  - Property/other: 22 months

## Case Submissions : 2014-2017



## Case Management Guidelines

The goal of the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory is to provide forensic services to all law enforcement agencies in all of Arkansas' seventy-five counties. In order to provide quality, timely services for the criminal justice system, the following case management guidelines have been established.

### DNA Analysis of Touch/Transfer Samples

The ASCL typically only conducts "touch" or "contact" DNA analysis (e.g., DNA from fingerprints, pieces of paper, drug paraphernalia, or commonly-handled objects) on violent crimes. Please also submit victim elimination samples. Below is a guide on items in which we have historically had success with obtaining DNA evidence.

#### Touch/Transfer Samples

Successful Items	Not successful Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Cigarette butts</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Drink cans</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Straws</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Bottles</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Gloves</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Hats/bandanas</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Clothing items</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Chewing gum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Hammers</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Screwdrivers</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Fecal matter</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Swabs from counter tops</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Swabs from door knobs</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Swabs from steering wheels</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Any type of common household items</li> </ul>



### DID YOU KNOW?

Typically, no analysis will be performed on items that have been retrieved from a person or a person's property when the intent is to link that person to the item.

#### Remember:

These are general guidelines.  
Call us if you have specific case needs!

## ATTENTION CASE COORDINATORS!

- ⇒ We have two new subpoena coordinators!
  - \* **Isabel Higgins-Threats:** Drugs & Toxicology subpoena case coordinator—(501) 683-6149
  - \* **Susan McGehee:** Latent Prints, Firearms, Digital Evidence, Physical Evidence & DNA—(501) 683-6152
- ⇒ Medical Examiner & Homicide subpoenas will be coordinated by Kelli Hudson—(501) 683-6114

## Staffing Updates

Since the publication of our Fall 2017 newsletter, we have hired a few new employees:

- Amanda Blox—Drug Chemist
- Elijah Cole—Drug Chemist
- Joseph DeMaro—DNA Analyst
- Isabel Higgins-Threats—Subpoena Coordinator
- Susan McGehee— Subpoena Coordinator

# ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY

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## Arkansas State Crime Laboratory Performance Survey

The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory Performance Survey is located on the Law Enforcement page (iResults) of the ASCL website. We welcome your feedback so that we can continue to improve and meet your needs.

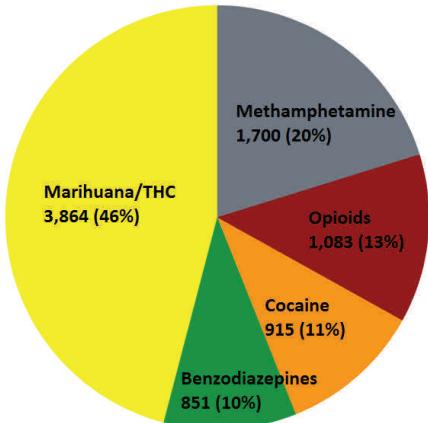
Please contact Cindy Moran regarding any questions at:  
[cindy.moran@crimelab.arkansas.gov](mailto:cindy.moran@crimelab.arkansas.gov)  
or 501-683-6190



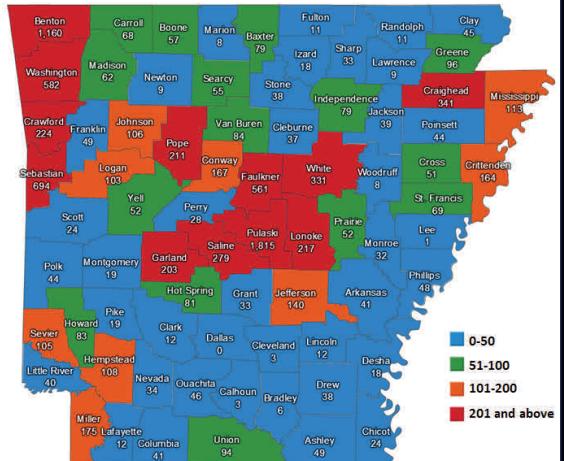
Page 4

## Drug Trends

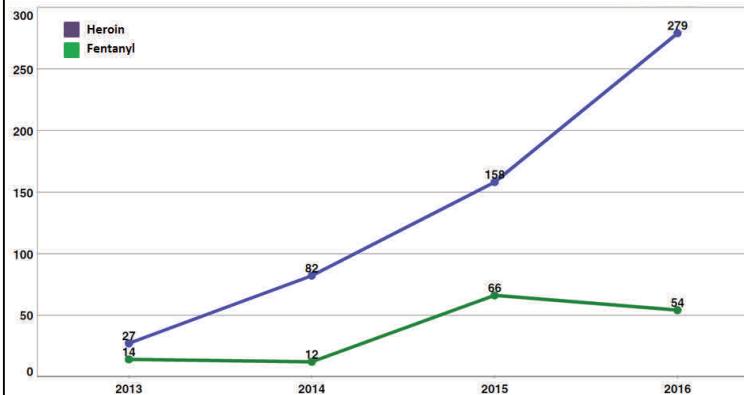
### 2017 – Q1 & Q2 Cases Received – Drug Class



### 2017 – Q1 & Q2 Cases Received



### Heroin & Fentanyl Cases Received 2013-2016



## New Goals for 2018!

1. Renovate existing space to provide efficiencies for PE-Serology and DNA
2. Identify funding source(s) for the Lowell satellite laboratory
3. Perform a feasibility study for a new crime laboratory in Little Rock
4. Reduce paper records and implement new processes for maintaining electronic records
5. Improve communication with the Governor's Office and other agencies through quarterly reports
6. Implement new Information Technology to improve efficiencies